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CIA Director Sees Military Balance Eroding

Washington—Military balance of power is "gradually eroding" in favor of the Soviet Union as it seeks to compensate for economic, ideological and political weaknesses, according to Adm. Stansfield Turner, new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Adm. Turner, former commander in chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe, recently said on a television program that the U. S. "can and" will be able to redress that, because again, I believe that the people of the United States are perceiving this need."

Stating that the Soviets "think in 19th Century power terms," Adm. Turner said they are attempting to compensate for other weaknesses "by building a military force that they hope will weigh in the balance for them and give them compensation for their other shortcomings."

"In turn," he added, "I believe we must not let them take that advantage."

Adm. Turner said the Soviet military buildup is an effort to obtain political leverage so "they can, without necessarily having to go to war, gain an overall political advantage." He said the U. S. effort to counter the Soviet military buildup does not require a massive new military program, but calls for "enough resources and enough attention, enough interest into this to realize where we have to strengthen ourselves." He said the U. S. must have a strong economic position and a strong intelligence function to counteract the Soviet challenge.

Adm. Turner said the CIA will closely monitor the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and will advise "whether we can verify what is agreed."

"That is one of the greatest contributions we're going to make," he said, "the ingenuity of the intelligence community in being able to let us go ahead with arms negotiations."

In another area, Adm. Turner said he does not advocate an Official Secrets Act to control the unauthorized flow of classified information from the CIA, but was "amenable" to studying amendments to legislation that would incorporate criminal sanctions for information leaks.

In addition, he said that despite several years of "considerable badgering in the press," the morale within the CIA is "quite good."

"It's surprising that it's held up this well" he said.